

The Chatham Record

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1883.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

THE SUPREME Court of the United States decided at their recent term that the homestead exemptions applied to executions issued on judgments in favor of the government just as they do on those in favor of individuals. The case went up on appeal from Wisconsin, and this decision overrules the decision upon the same point rendered by Judge Dick, of this State, in February, 1882, in a case from this county. We alluded to this decision of Judge Dick in the Review of March 9th, 1882, and expressed our surprise therat. A man in this county, named Howell, was a licensed distiller, and an action was brought by the government upon his warehouse bond, and judgment was obtained against him and his securities. Execution was issued and the marshal made return that no levy was made because the defendants owned no property in excess of their homestead exemptions. The District Attorney thereupon made a motion that another execution be issued and the marshal be directed "to make a levy and sale of the property of defendant without regard to such exemptions." Judge Dick granted this motion and rendered an elaborate opinion, in which he held that "State exemption laws cannot apply to any debt, obligation, duty or liability due from a citizen to the United States." Accordingly executions were issued, and the homesteads of quite a number of our countrymen were levied upon and sold by the marshal. And now the Supreme Court of the United States decide that these homesteads should have been exempted, and in contrast with Judge Dick's opinion they hold that, "Nothing can be more clear than this, as a recognition by Congress, that in case of executions upon judgments in civil actions the United States are subject to the same exemptions as apply to private individuals by the law of the State in which the property levied on is found."

This decision is eminently right and proper and places the government on the same footing with other creditors.

THE RAILROAD election held at Raleigh, on last Saturday, resulted in the defeat of the proposed subscription. Our readers will remember that an election was held last April in Wake county upon the question of subscribing \$100,000 towards building the Albemarle and Raleigh railroad, and the subscription was defeated by a large majority. At that election Raleigh township and some other townships through which the proposed road would run voted in favor of the county's subscription, but the remaining townships voted almost solidly against it. It was then proposed to hold elections only in those townships which had favored the county subscription, and let these townships subscribe certain amounts without the rest of the county being responsible therefore. Accordingly those townships held elections last Saturday, and all except two, voted against subscription. It is thought, therefore, that the proposed road will not be built, at least not for sometime yet.

It would seem to us, an outsider, that Raleigh must do something, and that soon, to retain (and we may say regain) the large trade that has been going there of late years. We have often heard the merchants of Raleigh say that more trade goes to their city from Chatham than from any other county, but we know that this trade is decreasing and we think will continue to decrease. Much of this trade now goes to Durham, and many of our countrymen find that this growing town offers them the best and most accessible market, to which they can haul their produce. In a few months the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railroad will be extended through the western part of Chatham, and all the trade from that section will then be diverted from Raleigh and go to Greensboro' and Fayetteville. The completion of that road will cut off much of Raleigh's trade, just as Fayetteville was injured by the extension of the Raleigh and Augusta Air Line road to Hamlet.

THE REVENUE districts have been changed, or rather will be changed on the 1st day of July. This is done in pursuance of an act of the last Congress. The number will be reduced from 126 to 82, and there are quite a number of changes made in consolidating the old districts. This (Chatham) county will no longer be in the 4th district of which Col. Be Young is collector, but will be in the 5th district, of which Dr. W. H. Wheeler of Salem is the newly appointed collector.

STAMPS on bank checks will not be used after next Saturday, the last Congress having abolished their use after that day. This tax affects so few of our readers that it may be necessary to explain what it is. During the war, when Congress passed the internal revenue law, a tax of two cents was levied on every bank check and this tax was paid by affixing a two cent stamp on every check. This tax has existed ever since, and has affected a very small part of our population, as not many persons, except business men, use a check. The abolition of this tax, however, will be a great relief to our rich editors and preachers!

But to be serious, it does seem very unjust, in Congress, to abolish this tax and not abolish the tax on trace chains and other articles that are daily used by our farmers.

The Public Roads.

Bad roads are a great misfortune and cost the people much more than would be the tax to keep them in good condition. The grand jury of Pike county, Georgia, recently made a presentation of their roads, from which we copy the following:

"Not only does the condition of the public roads reflect the character of the civilization of a country, but also mirrors the character of the people for industry, intelligence, economy and thrift. Bad roads, like bad whisky, not only make bad morals, but like bad whisky imposes upon the people taxes heavy, 'generous' and if we only pause to contemplate them perfectly appalling. There is perhaps no tax so useless, so burdensome, and about which there is so much gathering friction, as the tax imposed by bad roads. It is a tax upon mind, muscle, morals and material—upon man, beast and vehicle, upon time and sense, upon all things animate and inanimate that travel the highways. Grade, surface, drain, and solidity the public highways, and a team that now takes to market 1,000 pounds could with equal facility take 1,500 to 2,000 pounds, thus almost doubling capacity. On when twelve hours are now required to travel a given distance, six or seven hours would be ample sufficient, thus saving much valuable time. And whether time is money or not when rightly used is certainly the essence of prosperity and the very soul of political economy. Vehicles that now last two to six years would upon civilization and proper roads last eight to twelve years—one mile would do the work of two, a small one would do the work of a large one, that would last longer and travel that is now a burden and grief, would become pleasure and pastime. There is no truer apothecary than that 'money saved is money made,' and there can be no question that good roads would be a great saving in time, power, machine and money. Logans very ambitious but Dursey says man can kill Logan off. There is not a stronger man in the column except Tilden, and the latter's defeat has taken the party into which his presidential aspirations necessarily fell. In the next Republican convention there will be 600 delegates. It will be necessary to secure, for a nomination, 410. As things look now, there can be no doubt that Arthur will go into that convention with the solid South and the column except Tilden and a solid South means that mysterious and significant number 306. That leaves 104 only to be obtained, with New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the boundless West to come from. Let all the auditions of the publican's scheme look forward for Arthur."

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Our Washington Letter.

(From our regular correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., June 23, '83.
Politics seem to be warming up to correspond with the weather. There is much interest here in the Ohio situation, and to say that the Republicans are exceedingly nervous but fully express their feelings. Keynotes for '84 are being sounded in all directions, and the fine preliminary work of that campaign, so far as the candidates for nomination are concerned, is being quietly done. George Bliss, who has retired from the star route cases with a handsome pile of cash, is still about here and it is said will alternate between Washington and New York as the lieutenant of President Arthur in his fight for the Republican nomination. When Bliss was private secretary to Governor Morgan, he was the chief magistrate of the State to all intents and purposes, and it may be noted that in conventions, in constitutions and in all other places McGregor Bliss is generally found at the head of the table as it were. As the manipulator of Arthur's campaign he is a good deal more likely to succeed than he was at the head of the star route. He is just about tricky enough and unscrupulous enough to run a Republican campaign in those latter days of that once respectable party.

It is said that President Arthur's natural disposition to avoid trouble, to live quietly and to ignore the strife of the day, would disincite him from the excessive labor entailed by a fight for the nomination. Don't let the other candidates make any such mistake. Arthur is a quiet, taciturn, self-contained, self-reliant man, undoubtedly, but there is a great deal of human nature in Arthur. He was elected President, and it would be a very poor feather in his cap if, at the expiration of a three years' and a half administration, he could be honored by his party with a nomination. That of itself would be an intensely gratifying circumstance. The election is another thing. It doesn't follow that if nominated he would be elected. The chances are pretty strong the other way. But as matters now stand he has the inside of the pole in the race for the nomination. Blame is considered out of the way. Logans very ambitious but Dursey says man can kill Logan off. There is not a stronger man in the column except Tilden, and the latter's defeat has taken the party into which his presidential aspirations necessarily fell. In the next Republican convention there will be 600 delegates. It will be necessary to secure, for a nomination, 410. As things look now, there can be no doubt that Arthur will go into that convention with the solid South and the column except Tilden and a solid South means that mysterious and significant number 306. That leaves 104 only to be obtained, with New England, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the boundless West to come from. Let all the auditions of the publican's scheme look forward for Arthur."

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